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IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor                      Hans BEBBER et al  
Patent App.                  Not known (US Nat'l phase of  
PCT/DE2003/002845)  
Filed                         Concurrently herewith  
For                          METHOD AND DEVICE FOR CONTINUOUSLY CASTING  
                              METALS  
Art Unit                      Not known  
Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to examination of the above-identified application,  
please amend as follows:

In the translation serving as Specification:

Page 1, before Paragraph 1 insert